

CUSTOMER NO.: 24498
Serial No.: 10/620,738
Office Action dated: 04/04/06
Response dated: 06/30/06

PATENT
PD020078

Remarks/Arguments

Claims 1 – 4 were rejected under 35 USC 102 (b) as being anticipated by Ichikawa (US 5901159).

Claims 5 – 15 were objected to as being dependent upon rejected base claims (claims 1 – 4) but were said to be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 1 has been rewritten to include all of the limitations of claims 4 and 5, thereby complying with the Examiner's requirements for rendering claims 5 – 15 allowable (i.e., amended claim 1 is, in effect, claim 5 rewritten in independent form). All of the remaining claims numbered higher than "5" are dependent from claim 1 and should therefore all be allowable as well. In addition, claims 2 and 3, which were previously rejected because claim 1 was rejected, should be allowable since they also are dependent on "allowable" claim 1.

A "minor objection" to claim 7 has been satisfied by adopting the Examiner's suggestion to add "a".

All of the remaining rejected claims (claims 13 – 15) have been cancelled.

Objections were made to the Specification in that the ABSTRACT was not in proper form and the TITLE of the invention did not appear on the first page. Amendments have been made to both the ABSTRACT and TITLE to bring them into compliance with U.S. requirements.

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Conclusion

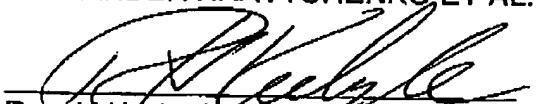
In view of the foregoing amendments, it is respectfully submitted that all remaining claims in this application, claims 1 – 3 and 6 – 12 are in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested.

No fee is believed due regarding the filing of this response; however, if a fee is due, please charge the appropriate cost to Deposit Account No. 07-0832.

Respectfully submitted,

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KRS

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